



READING THE LETTER: Randolph A. Hearst, with his wife at his side, reads a letter to news people Thursday in which a radical group called the Symbionese Liberation Army claimed credit for kidnapping the Hearst's daughter, Patricia, on Monday night from her apartment in Berkeley, Calif. The letter was mailed to Radio Station KPFA in Berkeley and turned over to the Hearst family. (AP Wirephoto)

Hearst Girl 'Prisoner Of War'?

*Terrorist Group Say It
Kidnaped Heiress*

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — An underground terrorist group says it is holding kidnaped Patricia Hearst as a prisoner and will execute the newspaper heiress if efforts are made to rescue her.

An anxious Hearst family awaited further word from the mysterious Symbionese Liberation Army, which claimed responsibility for the abduction in a communique Thursday. The group offered a gasoline credit

card belonging to the girl's father as proof that it held the 19-year-old coed as a "prisoner of war."

The girl's father is Randolph A. Hearst, president and editor of the San Francisco Examiner. The group's communique called him "a corporate enemy of the people."

Hearst said, "If this is a political problem it may become very, very difficult."

In the letter Thursday to Berkeley radio station KPFA, the radical group claimed the girl was alive and unharmed. But it added:

"Should any attempt be made by authorities to rescue the prisoner, or to arrest or harm any S.L.A. elements, the prisoner is to be executed."

Hearst said he believed his daughter was alive.

Miss Hearst, a University of California student, was kidnaped Monday night from her Berkeley townhouse in a flurry of gunfire.

The same group has said it was responsible for the cyanide-bullet assassination last November of the black superintendent of the Oakland schools. Two alleged Symbionese Liberation Army members are being held in the murder of Marcus Foster Nov. 6. At that time, the group vowed vengeance on "the fascist state."

The letter and Mobil credit card were turned over to Hearst.

The group's only demand was that the letter be published in full.

"No demand for ransom of any kind, whether it be an exchange of people or a money demand, has been received," said Jack Cooke, a spokesman for the Hearst family.

Hearst said Thursday night he expected further word by mail today or Saturday.

Thursday's typewritten letter, labeled "Communique No. 3, Feb. 4, 1974," said without amplification: "Further communications will follow."

Hearst said, "I just hope whatever demands they make

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 6)



SEVEN-HEADED COBRA: Tom Donohue, deputy police chief of Oakland, Calif., holds the seven-headed cobra symbol of the Symbionese Liberation Army which Thursday announced it had abducted Patricia Hearst from her Berkeley apartment Monday. The heads denote aims and goal of the SLA: Creativity, Self Determination, Cooperative Production, Collective Work and Responsibility, Purpose, Faith and Unity. (AP Wirephoto)

Kelley Begins Probe Of Oil Companies

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley today announced he has begun a fullscale statewide antitrust investigation of the country's major oil companies.

Kelley said the probe would

focus on the Michigan activities of virtually every large oil company, including Amoco, Exxon, Gulf, Mobil, Shell and various Standard companies.

The first phase of the investigation will begin next week when Kelley sends questionnaires to all public school districts, incorporated cities and county road commissions in the state.

"This phase will be directed toward finding if there has been collusive bidding by the major oil companies in the supplying of heating oil and gasoline to local units of government," Kelley said.

He said he would ask the mayors, school superintendents and road commission chairmen for help in determining how large oil companies have conducted bidding for such business from 1970 through 1973.

Revealing that the results of the investigation will be supplied to Connecticut officials, who began an antitrust suit against major oil companies last summer, Kelley said:

"No single state can take on the major oil companies alone. There are simply too big and have too many resources."

"I am convinced that the states must work together in order to determine if our antitrust laws have been violated by



INJURED FIANCE: Steven Weed, 26-year-old fiance of abducted Patricia Hearst, is pictured in Cowell Hospital on the University of California campus in Berkeley, where he is recuperating from injuries sustained during the Monday night kidnapping of Miss Hearst. "I felt my head was going to cave in," Weed said of his experience, telling how he managed to escape the kidnapers despite being beaten over the head with a heavy wine bottle. (AP Wirephoto)

the oil companies.

"That is the only way to equalize the odds. I hope that other state attorneys general will join the effort."

Kelley has met several times with Connecticut Atty. Gen. Robert Killian to discuss such

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 6)

Snowstorm Keeps Nixon From Checkup

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon headed for the naval hospital in suburban Bethesda, Md., today for a physical checkup, but snowstorm traffic tie-ups forced him to return to the White House before reaching his destination.

The White House said that Nixon left unannounced for his annual physical exam shortly after 8 a.m.

But within the hour word was relayed to reporters that he was turning back because a snowstorm had clogged rush hour traffic along the route.

This marked the second postponement of Nixon's yearly checkup.

South Haven Mayor Loses City Manager Can Keep His Office

SOUTH HAVEN — (Special) City Manager Albert Pierce won the battle for his office suite in the new city hall last night.

The city council voted 4-3 to permit Pierce to occupy the office area designated for him in the new \$565,000 structure.

The decision overturned a move by Mayor Elizabeth Davis, the city's first woman mayor, to claim the space.

Voting for Pierce's occupancy were Councilmen Norvan Books, Robert Warren, Matthew Goerg and Wilbur Ingrham. Voting against were Councilmen William Andresen and Rex Lineberry and Mayor Davis.

Action on the controversy came before a capacity crowd in the city hall chambers during a special meeting forced by Books and Warren. The two had contended the mayor's decision to occupy the manager's office

suite had gone beyond her authority.

The council, in making its decision, also voted to find quarters in the new city hall for the mayor, but did not specify where.

Pierce was not present. He is attending a managers' meeting in Ann Arbor.

Goerg provided the key vote in the council's action. He had indicated during an executive session Monday when the council first considered that he would favor the mayor's occupancy of the manager's space.

In voting against the move, he said "I received many, many calls relative to this issue, all contrary to my stand on the matter. I cannot ignore the requests and desires of these people. I hold my office by virtue of their faith in me to

represent their wishes in city government and the way in which it is to be run.

Goerg said he originally believed that office chosen by the mayor would in no way disrupt the usual day-to-day operation of the city government nor would it demoralize the employees working in the immediate area.

"I had the mayor's assurance that she did not intend to violate the city charter in any way by circumventing any of the city manager's authority," Goerg added.

Andresen, chairman of the city hall building committee, supported the mayor's desire saying her plan in no way was contrary to the spirit in which the building was designed.

"The philosophy of the design

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)

Strike Not Over But Trucks Roll

By CRAIG AMMERMAN
Associated Press Writer
More trucks were reported moving on the nation's highways today, but resistance to

A Sign Of Our Times

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — The Associated Grocers warehouse sign here is carrying a sign of the times:

"Roses are red, state police are blue."
"Drive 55 or you'll be blue, too."

No Truce In This Area

Vandalism and violence were on the increase overnight in Southwestern Michigan despite yesterday's tentative settlement in Washington of independent truckers' strike. See front page, section 2.

the proposed settlement of the crippling nine-day shutdown by independent drivers was strong. Thousands of drivers rallied largely around the men and groups which touched off the shutdown. They vowed to keep their rigs parked until they get lower diesel fuel prices. That was the demand which started the strike movement.

"I think we are a long way from ending this mess," said strike leader J. W. "River Rat" Edwards in Kansas City. "As long as the government refuses to talk sense, we won't either."

And 500 strikers attending a meeting with Edwards Thursday night vowed to stay shut down.

So did drivers attending Thursday night meetings in Joplin, Mo.; Branford, Conn.; Wildwood, Fla.; Coates, Minn.; Palmyra, Ill.; Moorhead, Minn.; Glasgow, Del.; and Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz. To flex their strength, some of the protesting drivers went out and closed down more truck stops Thursday night.

Pennsylvania Gov. Milton J. Shapp, the self-appointed mediator who initiated the Washington settlement talks, vowed to visit dissident independents to explain the agreement to them and get them rolling again. Others favoring the settlement agreed to in Washington early Thursday planned to do likewise.

But National Guardsmen remained on duty in eight states to keep the peace and escort truck convoys of gasoline and food. Federal officials said they might call out federal troops if necessary.

State police in at least 10 states said that truck traffic was up, but still far below normal levels.

In almost every case, drivers speaking out Thursday on the proposed settlement echoed the view of Roger Galloway of Overdrive magazine.

"It's a sellout," he said. "They sold these guys down the river."

Violence was down considerably Thursday after the proposal was announced. There were reports of tire slashings, hose cuttings and scattered shootings. A bullet struck a policeman's car in Oklahoma.

There were still more than 100,000 workers laid off, and some more layoffs were expected to be felt briefly even if the

strike ends. There were also predictions of scattered food shortages in the Northeast, where prices for scarce meat, poultry and produce were climbing rapidly. And it was predicted meat and produce would be short in supply for a week or so, with prices higher than normal.

Against that background, a few independent truckers said (See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)

Miners Rebuff Heath

LONDON (AP) — Britain's coal miners today rejected a last-minute plea from Prime Minister Edward Heath to put off their strike until after the Feb. 28 national elections.

Union leaders decided instead to call out the nation's 280,000 miners on schedule from midnight Saturday, raising the specter of widespread electricity cuts during the three-week election campaign and paralysis of British industry by spring.

The miners' walkout is now expected to strengthen the election prospects of Heath's Conservatives who plan a campaign on the issue of who runs Britain — the elected government or strike-prone trade unions.

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Rent snomble. P.Paw Lake Golf. Adv.

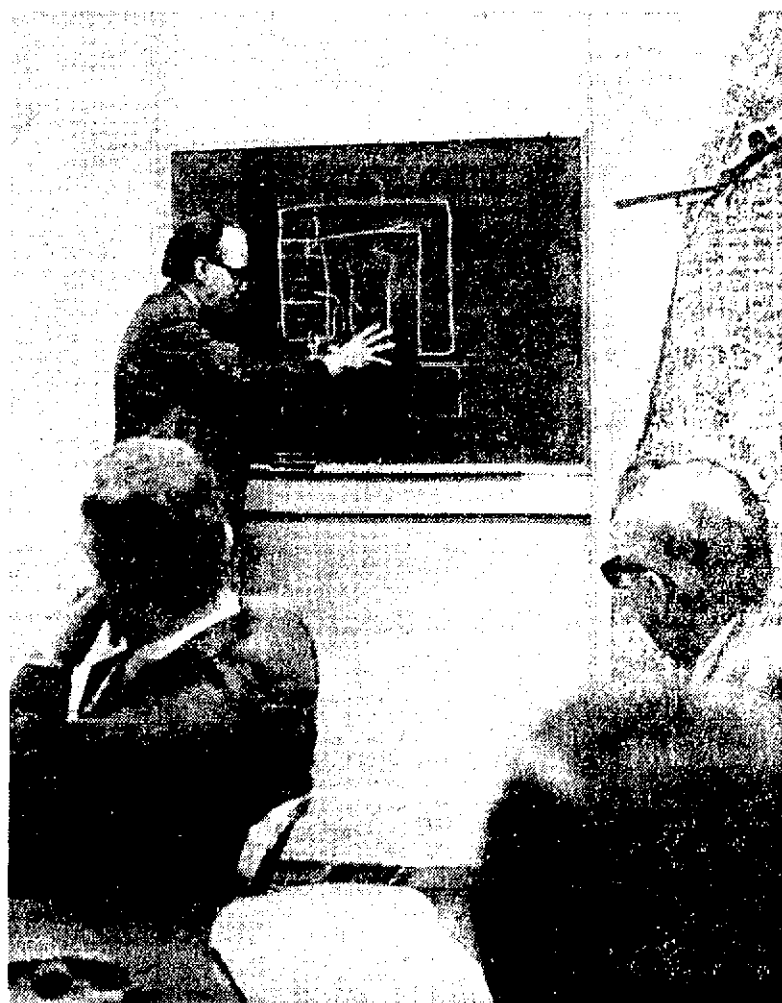
Influenza Epidemic Continues Up North

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

An influenza outbreak has forced the closings of several schools in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Schools closed until Monday include those at Chassell, Adams Township, Ewen-Trout Creek, Ontonagon and the Calumet area. Absenteeism was reported ranging from 18 per cent at Dollar Bay, where schools did not close, to 23 per cent at Hancock.

School at Lake Linden and White Pine were closed earlier in the week but reopened Thursday.



SHOWS OFFICE AREA: South Haven Councilman Robert Warren points to drawing of city hall floor plan during debate over whether mayor should get area previously designated for city manager. Mayor sought to claim area Tuesday on basis of executive session of council Monday night. Decision was reversed in public meeting of council last night. (Tom Renner photo)

THE HERALD-PRESS

Editorial Page

W. J. Banyon, Editor and Publisher
Bert Lindenfeld, Managing Editor

Franchise No Automatic Road To Success

The franchise is a very sizeable and quite elderly member in the U.S. retailing structure.

Its outward characteristic is the territorial exclusivity to distribute a product or service which is advertised nationally or regionally.

The franchise is bound not to distribute competing products or services and he must make the investment required to start the local outlet.

The franchisor lends him its managerial expertise acquired by trial and error in other locations and more likely than not require its judgment to control at the local level.

Although the Justice Department's anti-trust division and the Federal Trade Commission are taking an increasingly critical look at the system as being too one-sided toward the franchisor, the arrangement's prominence in retailing is such that eliminating or seriously curtailing it would create greater disruption than it would bring about a 100 per cent hypothetically economic equality between the parties.

The method has been the mainstay in the automotive field for generations. The bulk of all petroleum products find their way to the consumer by this route. Elsewhere it covers all manner of situations, from the perfume counter in a department store to putting the weary traveller to rest for the night.

For the most part the franchise has worked to the mutual benefit of both sides to it.

So well, in fact, that in recent years the idea has taken root that the small entrepreneur with limited capital can turn himself into a millionaire with a franchise to do something.

This misplaced faith has not escaped the attention of the celebrity world and shrewd investors looking for the leverage of a few dollars turning into many.

The combination of the big name and the smart money man has not made great headway and in many instances bombed out the local investor joining up with it. Minnie Pearl, Mickey Mantle, Joe Namath and Roger Williams, for example, have flopped completely in the effort to push McDonald's or Colonel Sanders to the outer wings in the hamburger and fried chicken trade.

Jerry Lewis, the comic, faces a more

discomfiting experience than those headliners from country music, football and baseball.

Walter Cobb and Chester Strycula, a former salesman and an airlines desk clerk respectively from Atlanta, and file others are suing him and Network Cinema Corporation for nearly \$8 million dollars.

This wholesome sum includes the several thousand dollars they put up to start Jerry Lewis mini-theatres, and a triple damage claim for alleged anti-trust violations, fraud and contractual defaults.

Their suit is aimed at Jerry's pocketbook more than at Network which last summer filed for Chapter XI reorganization in bankruptcy.

It took off in 1969 with a \$100,000 capital, of which Lewis had a one-fifth piece. Today it shows assets of \$1.9 million and liabilities of twice that amount.

Everything that could go wrong with Cobb's and Strycula's venture in the movie business did. Equipment failures plagued some. The substitution of X films for family fair kept others' customers away in droves.

The basis in their court action to rip Network's protective corporate veil from Lewis is his hefty advertising pitch to the effect that a showman can teach anyone how to make it in show biz.

It is an old principle in the law that under certain conditions an inexperienced person can recover the loss sustained in a transaction promulgated by an experienced mind. Normally the deal must have been put together by a close, almost face to face, relationship for the courts to step into the situation.

Lewis and the disillusioned plaintiffs never achieved that chumminess, but they contend the comic's TV plug that the public is tired of sick films sold them as effectively as would have a personal interview.

Lewis intends for the moment to fight the case to the Supreme Court if necessary for the very good reason that Network pulled in an estimated \$13 million in franchise fees before it stalled at Chapter XI.

Losing to Cobb, Strycula and their co-plaintiffs would merely be openers. And that's more hay than any comic could laugh away.

Melting The Blubber In Orvie's Dearborn

These are lean times in Dearborn, Mich. Mayor Orville Hubbard's current preoccupation with trimming down himself and other city officials has brought some heroic dieting. At a weighing-in ceremony two weeks after his lose-weight-or-else edict went out,

19 public servants were found to have shed 173 pounds.

No one can say how long this zeal will last, let alone what effect it may have on how well the city government functions. But Dearborn officials are demonstrating one thing: the heat of "or else" certainly does melt blubber.

Could The Answer Be Perverse Brinksmanship?

Senate minority leader Hugh Scott, R-Pa., says that he has seen proof of the President's Watergate innocence but the White House won't let him reveal it.

Vice President Ford says the White House has offered to show him the

same kind of proof but he hasn't bothered to go see it.

Can it be true? Can Richard Nixon really be permitting himself to suffer the slings and arrows of an outraged nation, to let himself be taken to the very edge of impeachment, only in order to vindicate himself in dramatic fashion and confound his enemies at the 11th hour?

If so, it is in keeping with the personality of the man who withstood the most bitter denunciation for his Christmas, 1972, bombing of North Vietnam, even while the Pentagon had photographic proof that the destruction was overwhelmingly limited to military targets.

And if so, it is "brinksmanship" with a vengeance, and something this weary, confused country could very well be spared.

Bird In The Hand

A study shows large donors gave congressional incumbents twice as much as their challengers. A bird in the hand...

'Fancy Meeting You Here'



GLANCING BACKWARDS

CITIZENS AGAINST BUYING BUILDING

— 1 Year Ago —

Plans by the New Buffalo township board for purchasing the old tourist information grounds and building on West US-12 were nixed by majority vote of 41 township residents last night. Voting by secret ballot, 26 of the 41 registered township voters at last night's public hearing voted against purchase the \$23,000 purchase from the state highway department.

GIRLS' INTRA-MURAL SWIM MEET SET

— 10 Years Ago —

St. Joseph high school's first intramural swimming meet for girl physical education students will be held at 3:15 p.m. Friday

at the school pool. The meet is under the direction of Mrs. Bernadine Salvadore, girls physical education instructor.

More than 50 girls will be grouped for the events in three teams under counselors Donald Blunt, Adrian Davis, and Miss Dorothy Dunbar. Six members of the boys intramural swimming team will coach the girls' teams. They are Richey Kurth, Jeff Schroeder, Bill Benner, John Nordberg, Dean Flowic, and Bill Preston.

ELEVEN LISTED IN SELECT 'A' GROUP

— 35 Years Ago —

One hundred and twelve students in the St. Joseph public high school and junior high on mention on the scholastic honor roll for the first semester of the

term. The freshmen, with 30, won largest representation. The seniors placed 22 students on the roll, the juniors, eighth grades and seventh graders each 15 and the sophomores 14.

Each class had representation in the select all-A group, as follows: Burton Aldrich, senior; Janet Gray and Kirby Milton, juniors; Betty Gose and Sally Stubblefield, sophomores; Bill Emery, freshman; Sonny Holden, Peggy Troost and Catherine Hinkle, eighth graders; Louis Jones and Janet Strasburg, seventh graders.

LEAVE FOR CHICAGO

— 45 Years Ago —

Mrs. Edith K. Allen, proprietor of the Allen Gift shop, Pleasant street, and John L. Rice, of Rice Brothers' store, State street, left yesterday for Chicago where they are attending the Gift Show convention.

SJ GETS NEW INDUSTRY

— 55 Years Ago —

St. Joseph has secured another industry. Articles of incorporation will be filed within a few days for the Industrial Rubber Goods company, and in the near future the factory will be in operation in the two-story brick building of the J.A. Blanchard company on Broad street. At the head of the infant industry will be Fred C. Palenske and G.E. Fredericks.

DANCE PROVES SUCCESS

— 65 Years Ago —

Although it was stormy and cold, and several other affairs were scheduled on the society calendar last evening, the dance given by "The Married Folks" at Burkhard hall proved to be one of the very delightful parties of the season. About 20 couples were in attendance. The music was furnished by Denny's seven-piece orchestra and was excellent. The dancers enjoyed the various two-steps and waltzes until the early morning hours.

BERRY'S WORLD



"That new small car you bought from us last week takes a little getting used to, eh, Mr. Boyer?"

Bruce Blossat

There's Hope For Today's Worth



WASHINGTON (NEA) — One of the bright rays which breaks through the gloom gripping much of this nation is the fragmentary, yet significant, evidence that some young enterprisers are finding ways to meet the soaring bigness of modern life.

The well-remarked escape of many Americans, young and old, to the smaller places is part of the story, but not all. More interesting in the case of the young, I think, is the generating spirit which leads to what often is quite bold venturing.

Recently I talked an hour or two with a young woman who, with another woman somewhat older than she, will open this spring what they hope to be a very special gift shop drawing mostly on carefully chosen European objects.

The young woman presently works in a suburban Washington bank and her friend has been a teacher. Both want freer play for their personal endeavors. So they have cast the die, and will set up shop in a small but developing town beside a lovely lake in the Colorado Rockies.

Last summer the two women went to Europe to search out and buy things for their place. They are committing the bulk of their savings, aware that the risk is substantial. But the younger woman, for one, is as excited as if she had just discovered the world.

In further example, I offer a young couple who have in only the last few weeks begun an adventure of their own in a modest-sized town on the Pacific slope. It is heartening to report they are off to a good start.

Marianne Means

Nixon Address As PR Disaster



WASHINGTON — — It is now clear that the President's State of the Union Message was a public relations disaster.

President Nixon had described it as one of the most important speeches of his career and the White House had insisted he labored personally over it for several days, doing little else.

But he chose to make a traditional, conservative address that acknowledged nothing unusual about these times and apparently was directed more at outlining a campaign theme of peace and prosperity for GOP candidates this fall than at unifying and reassuring a troubled nation.

There was a quality of unreality about it. At a time when the country is frightened and uncertain, he offered no new programs of substance. At a time when 20 Nixon associates have been indicted or have pleaded guilty to crime, he referred to Watergate almost casually and was neither con-

trite nor cooperative. At a time when a majority of voters say they do not believe him, he recited so many rosy inaccuracies that his credibility sank even lower.

And the speech received a dramatic cold shoulder from Congressional Democrats, revealing the drastic polarization of the men and women who will shortly vote on whether to remove him from office.

Members of the party out of the White House are naturally more restrained in their reception of a President than are those of his own party. But in the past, Congress has generally followed an unwritten law of politeness and courtesy and welcomed all Presidents cordially.

The stony silence from the Democrats throughout Nixon's speech demonstrated sharply that he no longer commands the bipartisan respect Congress has traditionally accorded his office. Republicans had been passing the word for days to give the President an enthusiastic welcome, and they applauded his speech 30 times. The Democratic snub, was apparently spontaneous and unorganized.

The speech itself was full of statements that are not supported by the facts.

The President pledged no recession. Two days later, the Annual Economic Report predicted that unemployment this year would rise to more than 5.5 per cent and that economic growth would drop to a near-zero level.

The President said he had provided the Special Prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, all the material he needs to conclude his investigations. Four days later, Jaworski complained that the President had not complied with several outstanding requests for Presidential tapes and documents.

SEEKS AID CUTOFF

WASHINGTON (AP) — Calling foreign aid "a narcotic but not a cure," Senate Foreign Relations Chairman J.W. Fulbright has introduced a resolution to end all major U.S. foreign aid programs within eight months.

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RICHARD H. AUSTIN
On BH Panel

Austin On BH Panel To Discuss Saving Electricity

Secretary of State Richard H. Austin will be on a panel discussing how the public can save electricity at a 7 p.m. meeting Tuesday in the Benton Harbor public library.

Also offering suggestions will be Benton Harbor Mayor Charles F. Joseph and John P. Banyon, Benton Harbor division

manager for Indiana and Michigan Electric Co.

A panel of I & M personnel will also be in attendance to field questions from the audience.

Suggestions will be offered on how electricity can be used wisely, resulting in a savings of energy and money.

Farmland Tax Relief Bill Passes Senate

By PAT CONNOLLY
Associated Press Writer
LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A bill aimed at saving millions of acres of farm land from commercial development passed the Senate Thursday and moved to the House, where it faces a dubious future.

The bill would grant tax credits to owners of agriculture land and other specified open, undeveloped areas if they agreed not to change the nature of the land for at least a decade.

The bill would take effect July 1, but even its supporters expressed doubt the House would pass the measure in the same form as it won Senate approval 26-4.

The Senate version would couple the tax relief for high property taxes with severe penalties which would give the state virtual control over development of land entered in the voluntary program. The

House, on the other hand, wants a program of tax credits without penalties which would tend to control development.

Under the Senate bill, the state would grant credit to farm owners for property taxes which exceeded seven per cent of household income if the farmer agreed to keep the land substantially the same for 10 years.

For example, a farmer who had a \$10,000 household income and property taxes of \$1,500 would receive an income tax rebate of \$800.

A major provision of the bill would require assessment of land at its value as farm land rather than at its potential value as commercial property. The state Tax Commission would appraise such property and submit its finding to the local assessor.

A person who left the voluntary program with the state's permission before the 10-year period ended would have to

repay all the tax credits he received plus 25 per cent of the value of the land. A person who altered the use of the land without state permission could be assessed double the value of the land.

A land owner leaving the program at the end of the 10-year period would have to repay seven years of tax credits, thus land owners would be financially encouraged to stay in the program for more than 10 years.

The contract with the state also would prohibit construction and land improvements "except as reasonably needed as farm operations." None of the land could be sold except as scenic, access or utility easement "which does not substantially hinder farm operations."

The earlier House version called for a three-year program offering tax credits for farmers. It did not contain land development provisions, which bring the most objections from House members.

An estimated 32,400 acres of Michigan farm land are turned to other purposes annually, state agriculture officials say. A major concern is that rural land near metropolitan areas is being swallowed up by housing subdivisions, industrial parks, apartment complexes and shopping centers.

Especially vexing to farmers near urban areas is that although their land may produce little money it is assessed according to its value as potential a commercial site. Under the bill, the land would be taxed at the lesser value as farm land.

Owners of eligible open lands — such as certain stream banks, shorelines, forest areas or historic sites — would not receive direct tax credits but could apply for property tax relief. Approval would depend on where the property was located and how it was used.

Michigan currently has 12.3 million acres of farm land and about 80,000 farms, said Sen. Harry DeMaso, R-Battle Creek, the bill's Senate spokesman.

DeMaso's bill is a heavily reworked, 20-page version of a six-page bill passed by the House. It is almost certain to end up in a joint House-Senate conference committee, where substantial differences will be worked out before final passage.

Rep. Dale Warner, R-Eaton Rapids, the bill's sponsor, said he hopes the bill can get House study for at least a week before going to committee.

"I'm delighted with the general outlines of the Senate bill. I'm not one of your nit-pickers," said Warner, whose original bill passed the House last May.

A main House opponent, Rep. Quincy Hoffman, R-Applegate, said the language of DeMaso's bill "is too vague" and objected to the penalty provisions.

"I'm all for agriculture land preservation but a lot of farmers I know wouldn't enter this program because of the penalties and because they simply don't know what they're getting into," said Hoffman, who raises cattle on a 100-acre farm in the Thumb.

Sen. John Bowman, D-Roseville, voted against the bill, saying urban area farmers would ignore the program while rural farmers get into it "for a tax break."

However, Sen. Alvin Degrow, R-Pigeon, who supported the bill, said, "At the very worst nobody will sign up under the bill. At the opposite extreme, it's too successful...it could cost the state \$25 million."



NEIGHBORS AID CHILDREN: Neighbors and passersby near a house at 631 Thresher avenue, Benton Harbor, carry children from smoke-filled home yesterday. Benton Harbor firemen said six children, ages 2 to 7, were left in the house before the fire under supervision of 7-year-old babysitter Anthony Haynes. Firemen identified Paulette Lee, resident of the house, as mother of four of

the children, and Isabelle Ash, no address available, as mother of other two. None of children was injured. Fire started in rear entrance to house, firefighters reported, and spread to kitchen, causing smoke damage to entire residence. Cause of fire was still under investigation. (Staff photos)



VALUABLE ASSIST: Ray McClinton and Carol Dixon told photographer for this newspaper they assisted in clearing six children out of a home at 631 Thresher avenue (in background) after a 7-year-old babysitter rushed out of the dwelling when it started on fire Thursday about 4:07 p.m. No one was injured in the fire. McClinton and Carol Dixon said they were driving by when they noticed fire.

Council Adopts Three Oaks' First Zoning Ordinance

THREE OAKS — Three Oaks village council last night unanimously adopted a zoning ordinance for the village, following a public hearing where no objections were filed.

The zoning ordinance which defines land use in the village will go into effect 20 days after publication, and is the first for Three Oaks. The ordinance is expected to become effective the first week of March.

The board also voted to put a

proposal for fluoridation of the village's water supply on the ballot in the village's March 11, election.

In discussing the fluoridation proposal, councilmen noted that should the proposal be accepted by voters, an additional one-mill levy in property taxes, might be necessary to cover the cost of equipping each of the village's three wells and possible construction of a fourth well.

Councilmen indicated the expense of such equipment would probably run between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

In other action, the council voted to purchase a new two-way radio for the village's police patrol car at an estimated cost of \$1,024.

The council also accepted preliminary plans of REACH for a tot-lot, a play area for pre-schoolers, to be built in Three Oaks. REACH is a New Buffalo-River Valley school district area youth assistant program. The tot-lot would be planned as a memorial to the late Three Oaks village mayor Keith Gridley. No site for the tot-lot has been determined and construction would be financed through memorials to Mr. Gridley.

Land-Use Bill Heads For New Committee

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A controversial bill which would start Michigan toward a statewide land use plan was reported out of a House committee Thursday.

The bill came out of the Towns and Counties Committee on a vote of 7-4, and is expected to be sent to the Appropriations Committee today. Floor action will be delayed until next month.

The measure has been watered down since its introduction, but is still sure to raise considerable opposition from business and real estate interests. It would place considerable restrictions on development of specified land within the state.

The bill itself would establish a state Land Use Commission to set up interim rules governing development on so-called "critical" lands. Such lands would include agricultural, forest and recreational lands, shorelands and sensitive environmental areas.

The commission, drawing upon local recommendations, would then write a state land use plan, to be enacted by the legislature.

If local governments or counties incorporated the plan into their zoning laws, they could govern local developments on critical lands. If they did not, or if the developments crossed local governmental boundaries, the state would make the decisions.

Rep. Philip Mastin, D-Hazel Park, the bill's sponsor, and chairman of the Towns and Counties Committee, says it will be five years before such an extensive plan could take effect. But within six months to a year after the bill's passage, he said, interim controls would go into effect to prevent land speculation.

Zoned land would be exempt from the bill's provisions except, under an amendment included in the bill Thursday, land zoned agricultural would be included under the interim controls to regulate development of farm land where the zoning laws permit it.

Developments covering less than five acres would be exempt, also.

The interim controls would require commission approval of various types of development on critical lands. In no case,

Mastin emphasized, would development be broadly prohibited; but only development consistent with the present state of the land and capable of retaining its nature would be permitted.

Stevensville 'Wants Answers' On Sewer Line

Stevensville village council voted last night to seek a meeting with St. Joseph township Supervisor Orval Benson over the much-delayed Hickory Creek interceptor sewer line.

Village President Arthur C. Kasewurm said the council "wants some answers" on the sewer line that is to connect the village, Lincoln township and St. Joseph township with the Twin Cities sewage disposal

plant, a near \$2.7 million project.

The village president said the council has been getting complaints from homeowners and business men alike on the unavailability of the service.

Village residents were charged, and have been paying on, a \$1,200 per lot hookup fee for the service they can't yet use.

Use of the line has been delayed by a partial collapse of a 500 to 600 foot section of pipe on Cleveland avenue in the Hickory Creek ravine.

In other action, the council said it wants to count the number of residential stops for which a commercial garbage pickup service is being paid to make.

Several councilmen suggest the count after the council voted to pay the January trash pickup bill at the rate of \$1.75 for 430 stops.

Migrant Housing Talk Due

An explanation and discussion of new federal regulations being phased in for migrant labor housing on farms will be conducted at the February meeting Monday of the Women for Survival of Agriculture in Michigan.

Growers have been invited to the meeting, starting at 8 p.m. in the basement of the Watervliet Catholic church. President Laura Heuser of Hartford said growers are invited because there appears to be confusion about the new housing requirements.

Robert Kaukola of the Michigan Department of Health will outline the new regulations.



NEW POST: L. William Seidman, who seriously considered running for Vice President Gerald R. Ford's vacant congressional seat, at Grand Rapids, has been appointed management and budget consultant on Ford's Washington staff. (AP Wirephoto)

South State St. Lot Split Okayed By SJ Planners

St. Joseph city planning commission Thursday approved a lot split for the St. Joseph Improvement association property on South State street.

Commission Chairman James Heathcote reported that John S. Stubblefield, president of the association, told him there are no specific plans for immediate development of the property.

The association sought the lot split so the property can be sold in parcels.

In other action planners ordered a series of investigations by the building inspector to determine if there is non-conforming use of property and signs in various parts of the

city.

Planners authorized a check of an aquarium business at the northeast corner of Columbia avenue and South State street in regards to a sign. Planners said it is possible to operate a business in a home as long as it is not advertised.

Another investigation was ordered to determine if Papina's Restaurant, 2800 Cleveland avenue, St. Joseph, is in or out of a commercial zone.

Discussing appearances of the city of St. Joseph in general planner John Fellers said he would like St. Joseph to imitate Carmel, Calif., where all signs are small and uniform.

FIVE-DAY PLAN

Stop-Smoking Class Begins On Feb. 17

A Five Day Plan class to help smokers kick the habit without major withdrawal pangs will be conducted in the Forum at St. Joseph Memorial hospital, beginning Sunday Feb. 17.

Open to any smoker who desires to stop smoking, the class will run five consecutive evenings from 7:30 to 9 o'clock. The evening programs will consist of film and group therapy led by a psychologist-doctor team.

Sponsors of this public service program will be the local unit of the Michigan Heart association and the Colfax Avenue Seventh Day Adventist church, Benton Harbor.

Further information is available by calling the respiratory care department of Memorial hospital between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, or Pastor Raymond Holmes, Redbud trail, Berrien Springs, in the evenings.

One Lady Bandit Suspect Released

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Bank robbery charges against one Kalamazoo woman were dismissed Thursday, while a second woman was bound over for trial.

U.S. Magistrate Stephen Karr dismissed charges against Terry Jean Rowen, 27. Karr said there was no testimony showing she was present on Jan. 15 when the American National Bank and Trust Co. was robbed of \$9,800.

The magistrate ordered Sharon Rene Gaddie, 19, bound over for federal court trial in connection with the robbery. Her bond remains at \$15,000.

Both women were arrested Jan. 29 at the home of Miss Gaddie's parents.

Food Stamp Books Are Stolen

Berrien sheriff's detectives reported they continued to investigate the theft of 12 books of food stamps worth \$10 in food each, from the county social service distribution center on 242 Pipestone street, Benton Harbor.

The theft allegedly occurred Jan. 29 about 7:30 p.m. as the books were being unloaded from a delivery truck.

IN FATAL CRASH

Illinoisian Enters 'No Contest' Plea

An Illinois man pleaded nolo contendere (no contest) Thursday in Berrien circuit court to a charge of negligent homicide in the traffic death of a Bridgman man last May 26.

The charge against Kent William Hann, 20, of Wheaton, was operating a motor vehicle in a negligent manner on Lake street in Bridgman resulting in a head-on collision with another auto and fatal injuries to Joseph Mense.

Bond was continued pending sentence by Judge William S. White.

More Violence Here In Trucking Dispute

BY ALAN AREND and AS-SOCIATED PRESS

Two truck drivers were injured and several windshields smashed in southwestern Michigan during the night, despite an announced settlement Thursday between government and representatives of independent drivers.

State police at Wayland in Allegan county reported that two Meijer Thrifty Acres trucks, heading north to Grand Rapids on US-131 were struck with bricks thrown from an

overpass at Martin.

Both trucks pulled off the road, stopped a state police patrol car, informed troopers of the incident, and then proceeded on to Grand Rapids. One driver sustained minor injuries and the windshields of both trucks were damaged, one being shattered and the other cracked. Police did not release the names of the two drivers.

Cass county sheriff's deputies reported that Robin Smith of Mishawaka, Ind., a driver for C & E Transport of South Bend,

Ind., said someone threw a 20-ounce fishing sinker through his windshield as he was headed west on M-60 near Jones. Police said Smith went to Pawating hospital, Niles, on his own accord, for treatment of an injured finger.

Two trucks in a three truck convoy on US-33 in Royalton township, were damaged Thursday about 1 a.m. when a car full of men pulled next to them and threw what was believed to be ball bearings at the rigs, Berrien sheriff's

deputy Jack Knuth reported. The incident was reported when the trucks stopped in Berrien Springs. None of the drivers were injured.

Independent truckers at Hilbrand's truck stop, New Buffalo, removed their blockade of fuel pumps following yesterday's announced agreement, but then set the blockade back up last night. R.J. Richards of New Buffalo, local independent truck driver spokesman, said he was calling for continued support of the protest.

Nails were also scattered at the Sawyer truck stop, last night, and a number of tires were reportedly damaged.

At Holland, a confrontation between strikers and non-striking truckers ended peacefully Thursday as strikers tried to keep the others from leaving the M-21 One Stop. Holland police said about 20 officers broke up the confrontation but made no arrests.

In other incidents across the state:

One trucker was injured when a steel ball bearing crashed through his rig's windshield and three other trucks had their windshields smashed early today on Interstate 94 near Jackson, State Police said.

The window smashings were among several violent incidents reported throughout Michigan Thursday night and today despite announcement of a nationwide settlement between striking truckers and the government.

Troopers said William W. Batic, 39, of Hawthorne, Fla., was taken to a hospital for treatment of injuries caused when flying glass pierced his eye around 1:30 a.m. about 12 miles west of Jackson.

They speculated the ball bearing was fired from a slingshot.

None of the other drivers was hurt. Police said a bullet smashed through the windshield of one of the trucks. Troopers were unable to say how the other two windshields were broken.

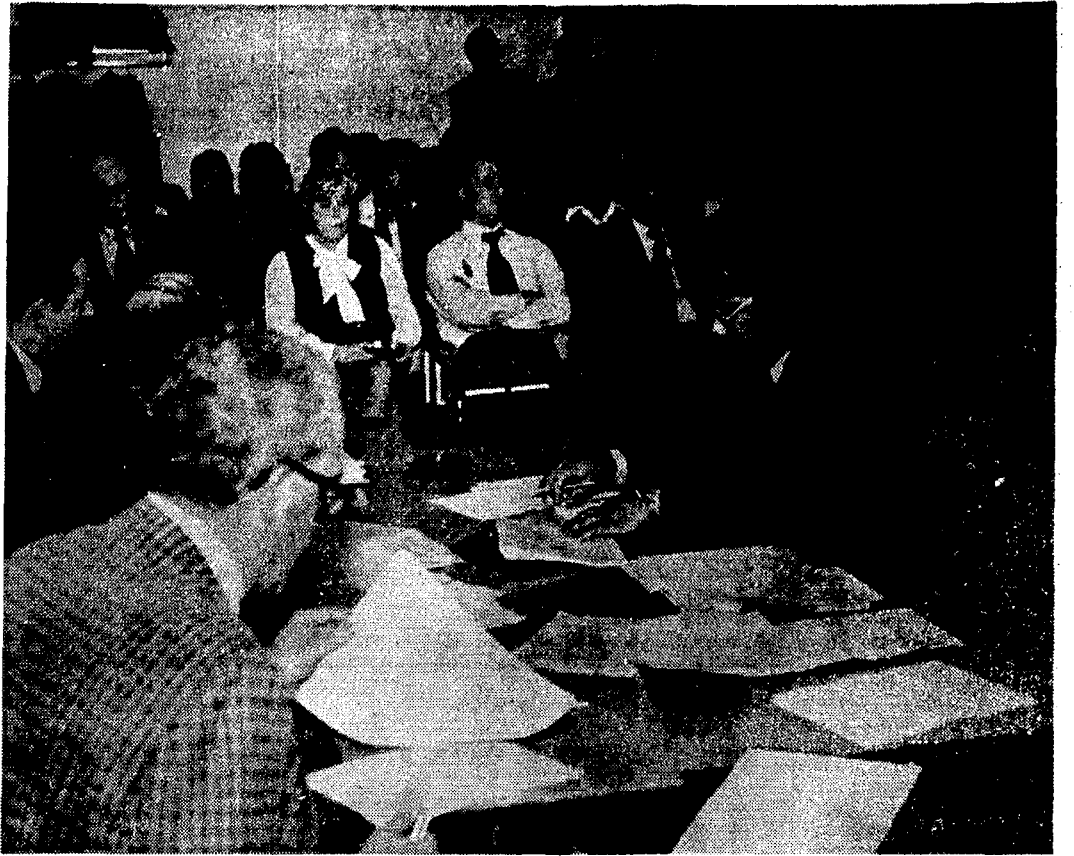
State Police said all four trucks were on westbound lanes of the interstate in the Jackson area when the incidents occurred, all within the span of an hour. Troopers said a single car traveling east may have been responsible for all four window smashings.

State Police in Tekonsha said a Lansing driver narrowly escaped injury late Thursday when a bullet pierced his rig's windshield on Interstate 69 south of Marshall.

Troopers said the bullet, believed fired from a high-powered rifle, missed the driver's face by about six inches. Troopers in Battle Creek said they were kept busy escorting trucks away from a local truck stop where similar incidents were reported.

If a scattered survey of striking truckers is any indication, Michigan drivers may remain off the job for some time, at least until the weekend. Mike Tyrrell, a meat-hauler from Allen Park, complained federal negotiators "haven't offered us anything new. They say we can make toll-free calls to complain about price gouging,

(See page 21, column 4)



HEARING IS PACKED: Committee hearing Thursday on whether county-owned Berrien General Hospital at Berrien Center should get new surgery was packed with some 50 persons. All but one of 12 speakers favored it. Berrien County Medical Society was opposed. Among 13 commit-

teemen present several are seen at table in foreground (clockwise, from left foreground) Robert Bradburn, Dr. Weldon Cooke, Howard Parker, Robert Tynes and Ray Tutwiller. (Staff photo)

Future Of Berrien Hospital On The Line

BY BRANDON BROWN
Staff Writer

Berrien General hospital's bid for a new surgery wing may be a bid for continued life for the hospital, a hospital spokesman said Thursday.

The statement by Trustee Samuel Creden came after a one-hour hearing on the hospital's request for an okay of a proposed new surgery facility before a committee of the Southwestern Michigan Comprehensive Health Planning association.

Facilities Committee Chairman C.T. Loftus said the committee would meet later Thursday, make a recommendation and keep it secret until presented at an unstated time to the SMCHP board. The full board will act on the committee's recommendation.

BGH must embark on repairing or replacing the existing 1961 surgery unit by March 31 — by order of the state health department — or the hospital's fate lies with the health department, Creden said.

If BGH misses the deadline, and perhaps if SWMCHP denies the new surgery, the state health department could withdraw the hospital's license "at which point we're out of business" as an acute-care facility and perhaps as a hospital completely, Creden said.

He, union representatives, a health organization spokesman, a Model Cities task force, Operation STICK and private citizens spoke either in favor of a brand new surgery at BGH or in general of giving the hospital what it needs.

A Berrien County Medical society spokesman opposed the

new surgery wing. He said it was not shown to be a necessity.

Comments came during a one-hour hearing before Loftus' committee Thursday at 4 p.m. in the lecture room of Mercy hospital, Benton Harbor, with 13 of 15 committeemen attending.

Updating the present surgery would cost at least \$100,000 and be a waste of cash, Creden said, because it wouldn't overcome a major objection of the health department — moving surgical patients through two public areas, down an aged elevator and along long corridors to post-operative recovery rooms.

Instead, BGH proposes to spend \$225,000 of federal revenue-share money from the county board of commissioners

on a brand new building at the front of the present emergency entrance. It would have one major and one minor surgery room, a cystoscopic surgery room, a six-bed recovery room, doctor and nurse changing rooms, a nurse station and others.

Creden said the hospital architect has told him the state health department has "demanded" that surgery be moved in the hospital's long-range plans.

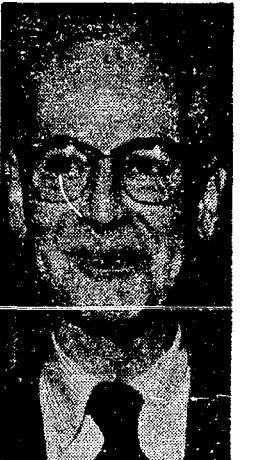
Dr. Samuel Gould, president of the county medical society, said his society recommends denial of BGH's new surgery facility on grounds its need at BGH has not been demonstrated.

Further, Dr. Gould had "some questions" about surgical procedures that would be performed at BGH. And, he added, other hospital administrators have indicated their facilities could handle BGH's 1,400 annual surgical procedures.

Among those in favor of a new surgery unit or in general giving the hospital what it needs were the Twin City Health Advisory committee, the local United Auto Workers CAP council, Operation STICK in Benton Harbor, the health task force of Model Cities of Benton Harbor-Benton township, UAW Local 793 from Auto Specialties, and several individuals.

"Whatever you can do for Berrien General, gentlemen, do it," said one, James L. Heeter, whose wife is a patient there.

Will Branscomb, from the UAW CAP council, put the new surgery in terms of keeping Berrien General open and said he does not want to see Mercy



SAMUEL CREDEN
Surgery Bid

and Memorial hospitals in the twin cities squeeze BGH out of existence.

Several speakers praised the quality of care patients get at BGH and said it has an open-door policy, regardless of race, cash or insurance.

If SWMCHP disapproves the new surgery, BGH may miss the March 31 deadline unless it appeals directly to the state health department, Creden said. If SWMCHP okays it, BGH would take construction bids under the fairly certain assumption that the state health department will approve too, he said.

The area health planning association has the responsibility under federal-state law to determine whether the new surgery is needed, with the state health department having final authority.



NAILED: Coated nails hurled against the truck of Bill Daniels of Manistee damaged windshield Wednesday night while he was southbound on M37 near Grant. Daniels was unhurt. (AP Wirephoto)

Woman Is Charged In Husband's Death

A Berrien Center woman has been charged with the shooting death of her husband who was found in the couple's home last Sunday some 10 to 12 days after he was killed.

Taken into custody at Lee Memorial hospital in Dowagiac was Mrs. Joyce Johnson, 33. She was taken from the hospital and admitted to Riverwood mental health center in St. Joseph.

Berrien Prosecutor John Smietanka said doctors at Riverwood will determine when Mrs. Johnson is able to go to her arraignment in district court.

She is charged with the murder of her husband, Carroll D. Johnson, of M-140, Berrien Center. His body was found in an unheated room in the Johnson residence Sunday by two teenagers attending a birthday party at the home.

Smietanka said Mrs. Johnson was arrested on an open charge of murder on a warrant he

authorized and which was signed by Fifth District Judge John T. Hammond.

The prosecutor said Mrs. Johnson was formally arrested at Lee Memorial by Undersheriff Paul Parrish of Cass county, and then remanded to Berrien authorities.

Smietanka was at the hospital when she was arrested, as were sheriff's officers Det. Capt. Ron Immoos, Capt. Gerald Hass, and Det. Jon Nichols.

Mrs. Johnson had been admitted to the hospital Sunday for what was termed "observation." Mr. Johnson's death had previously been attributed to gunshot wounds by a Berrien medical examiner. He had been employed as a millwright at Auto Specialties Co. in St. Joseph. Mrs. Johnson was not employed.

There are seven children in the Johnson family, ages 3 to 15 years.

Trucker Charged In Incident

WHITE CLOUD, Mich. (AP) — A 30-year-old Newaygo man, accused by police of throwing debris at a passing truck, has been arraigned on a felonious assault charge.

Herschel Morgan was released on his own personal recognizance Thursday following his arraignment in White Cloud District Court. He

demand examination but no date was set.

Police said Morgan threw rocks and nails at a truck from a passing car on Michigan 37 near Grant in Newaygo County.

The alleged incident occurred early Thursday, police said.



DISSATISFIED DRIVERS: Terms of an apparent nationwide settlement between independent truck drivers and government did not satisfy a group of about 50 drivers as they confronted police at a

Holland truck stop yesterday after blocking four semi-trucks in M-21 truck stop parking lot. Victims of the blockade were trucks from the Key Line

trucking company of Grand Rapids. Ottawa Holland police, assisted by county sheriff's deputies, and state police from South Haven and Grand Haven

posts, towed several cars away from truck stop (right), allowing trucks to leave. There were no arrests reported. (Tom Renner photos)

